

## **Keshar Israel Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2006**

Attendees: Rabbi Barry Freundel, Gary Winters, Ken Weinstein, Roz Singer, Marty Ramirez, Jesse Mendelson, Elanit Rothschild, David Barak, Elana Lederman, Gamliel Kronemer, Baruch Fellner, Sheldon Weisel.

1. The Rabbi gave a brief dvar torah on the Rav and the Rabbinat
2. The Rabbi said he has learned that the Leisersohn house next door is rented (but not sold). Baruch will still keep an eye on it.
3. November Board minutes approved by Board vote, subject to some small changes in dvar Torah (Rabbi will discuss with Jesse).
4. Synagogue Financial Report – Large number in second half budget report because the shul paid the Rabbi's children's tuition and health insurance. After 5 months, we are on track for this year.
  - a. Baruch Fellner asked to see this document vs. prior years budgets – the membership rolls of the shul have been increasing, but that does not necessarily reflect itself in the budget line item, OR the line-items are different from amounts budgeted. Baruch has asked for previous budgets to be passed out, and Gary said that's fine, and mentioned that this year is line with previous years.
5. Fundraiser – There is a conflict with March 18, so March 11 looks good at 6<sup>th</sup> and I, and will probably start at 6 pm instead of 5 pm. Honorees are Jonathan Frenkel and Alfred and Lynn Altschul. Roz Singer will send email to Keshar listserv to confirm and get volunteers.
6. Table and Bimah Covers – David Barak said we have commitments from people to donate five small ones, one person to donate both big ones, and two small ones are still left. The Board agreed to try to arrange payment within the next month or two. The Board commended David on a job well done.
7. New Member – Jamie Salter, single, 28-65
8. Guest Speaker – Dr. Alon Tal of the JNF spoke about his organization in Israel (brought by Green Group).
9. Periodic Bulletin – Gary passed out the completed draft. Gamliel Kronemer said it has gone to press, and it will be 11x17 sheet folded in half, like a booklet. Seth Opert leaned on people to write and submit materials, and Gamliel collected and edited. The Board gave a big Kol Hakavod to Gamliel and Seth. The Rabbi said that when the bulletin comes out around holidays, the halachot should be included.

- a. For next Bulletin, Roz agreed to write something about the women's tefila group. The bulletin will be mailed to the membership, and put on the website, but not sent via email.

10. Rabbinic Intern (part of the discussion was held in executive session and is not reflected in the minutes)

- a. It was noted that there were only 5 people at Yoel's last shiur. There was a discussion of whether we should change the venue. Gamliel said that we're paying him, its important for him to give a shiur, but Yoel doesn't like the fact that no one comes.
  - i. We discussed an oneg at someone's home (a la Sisterhood oneg at the Steins) every other month as a way to attract more people.
    - 1. There was concern that it would be difficult to get people to go out in the winter, but combining with the oneg is a good way to get more people
    - 2. Gamliel said he'd have to change the format of the shiur if we do the oneg
    - 3. The Rabbi said the focus of the internship is his training, so the oneg can't be an every-time thing
  - ii. The Board agreed that next time he comes down (Jan 6), the shul will sponsor an oneg at someone's house on Friday night
- b. David Barak asked if we'd be willing to work with YU to change the way we do this (i.e. come down for 2 months instead of once a month). The Rabbi said it would be impossible because there is no way to leave shiur, learn practical halacha in fourth year of semicha, etc.

11. New Member Initiatives

- a. Buttons are done, and will be at Roz's house on Monday. Light green round button says "Ask Me about KESHER ISRAEL." Roz will distribute buttons and those who want to, will wear them.
- b. New members are to get an updated directory with every new member packet.
- c. Jesse will talk to Shoshana in the office about directory/binder/new member outreach and Sisterhood.

12. Good and Welfare

- a. Location of Carlebach minyan. We're moving towards idea of alternating upstairs and downstairs, if not permanently moving upstairs. We'll have a discussion at Carlebach, and even though board has to make the decision, we'd like to know if there is massive opposition.
- b. Rabbi's comments:
  - i. Such a forum will harden, not soften attitudes.
  - ii. Downstairs is good for many reasons, but it has gotten to the point where people can't daven and there is no space in the room
- c. The question was raised of whether we can put a mechitzah upstairs, and the Rabbi said he would look into the question, but in his view having a kosher mechitzah that won't exclude people is very difficult
  - i. Elanit said she doesn't want to change the shul and spend money to do a mechitzah upstairs just because people don't want to daven on two levels
  - ii. Baruch strenuously agrees, and would oppose any resources or time or anything that would look into that.
  - iii. Gamliel agrees with Elanit and Baruch.
- d. The Board agreed that we will consider alternating weeks, upstairs and downstairs, until Purim, and then have discussion in shul.

13. Renovation Update. The chairs in the front row of the women's section will be fixed, but we don't have a time frame on this yet. For now, we will move chairs upstairs to take the place of the chairs in the front row. Lighting is in process – some are in, some are coming.

14. There will be a massive clean out after breakfast 12/17, with a shames run as well. The Bayit will also be massively cleaned out, headed by Leah Stein.

15. No one currently is in charge of the main shul's library – we will try to find someone to take care of it.

16. The Rabbi reported that the 7:15 maariv minyan attendance was sparse in the beginning, but it is getting better.

17. The Rabbi provided an update on the conversion issue in which he has been involved. He reported that the new conversion proposal unanimously passed the 45-member executive committee of the RCA (45 orthodox rabbis unanimously agreed to something!). It was sent two weeks ago to the Israeli Chief Rabbi, who looked at it and said "long and serious."

Meeting Officially Adjourned.